CLAIMS

1. In an electronic document editor, a highlight rendering services component comprising a highlight rendering services interface that provides one or more methods to enable an editor extension to highlight a section of an electronic document.

2. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, wherein the methods provided by the highlight rendering services interface further enable the editor extension to define a style of the section highlighting.

3. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more methods further comprises a method to enable the editor extension to create a highlight segment between two display pointers in the document.

4. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more methods further comprises a method to enable the editor extension to create a highlight segment between two display pointers in the document and to highlight the segment according to a specified rendering style.

5. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more methods further comprises a method to enable the editor extension to redefine a highlight segment.

6. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more methods further comprises a method to enable the editor extension to redefine a style of a highlight segment.

7. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more methods further comprises a method to enable the editor extension to remove a highlighted segment from the document.

8. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, further comprising an interface to enable the editor extension to control a highlighted section of a document.

9. The highlight rendering services component as recited in claim 1, further comprising an interface to enable the editor extension to control one highlighted section of a document from a group of highlighted sections of the document.

10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for one or more interfaces that, when executed by an electronic document editor on a computer, perform the following:

receiving parameters from a designer through a highlight rendering services interface;

utilizing the parameters to highlight a segment of an electronic document;

returning values to the designer regarding the state of the highlighted segment.

11. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the utilizing the parameters further comprises utilizing the parameters to define a style in which the segment is highlighted.

12. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the utilizing the parameters further comprises utilizing the parameters to create a highlight segment between two display pointers in the document.

13. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the utilizing the parameters further comprises utilizing the parameters to create a highlight segment between two display pointers in the document and to highlight the segment according to a specified rendering style.

14. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the utilizing the parameters further comprises utilizing the parameters to redefine a highlighted segment in the document.

15. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the utilizing the parameters further comprises utilizing the parameters to redefine a style of a highlighted segment in the document.

16.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10, wherein the utilizing the parameters further comprises utilizing the parameters to remove a highlighted segment from the document.

17.   A method for providing highlight rendering services to one or more extensions in an extensible editor, the method comprising:

receiving a request from an extension to utilize the highlight rendering services;

facilitating the request by presenting a highlight rendering services interface that is accessible by the extension; and

communicating with the extension through the highlight rendering services interface to enable the extension to highlight a section of a document through the editor.

18.   The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the facilitating further comprises presenting a highlight segment interface to enable the extension to control a highlighted section of a document displayed by the extensible editor, and wherein the communicating further comprises communicating with the extension through the highlight segment interface.

19.   The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the highlight rendering service interface further comprises an add-segment method to enable the extension to create a highlight segment between two display pointers in the document and to define a style of the highlighting.

20. The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the highlight rendering service interface further comprises a move-segment-to-pointers method to enable the extension to create a highlight segment between two display pointers in the document and to define a style of the highlighting.

21. The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the highlight rendering service interface further comprises a remove-segment method to enable the extension to remove a highlighted section from the document.

22. An electronic document editor stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising:

a designer interface to transfer data between the editor and one or more designers attached to the editor;

an event routing controller to route events received by the editor to the one or more designers;

a highlight rendering services component that is configured to enable a designer to modify rendered character attributes of document text without modifying the document content.

23. The electronic document editor as recited in claim 22, wherein the highlight rendering services component further comprises a highlight rendering services interface configured to transfer data between the editor and a designer to enable the designer to control which sections of the document are highlighted on the screen and the style in which the highlighting appears.

24.   The electronic document editor as recited in claim 23, wherein the highlight rendering services interface further comprises an add-segment method to create a highlight segment between two display pointers and highlight the highlight segment according to a specified rendering style.

25.   The electronic document editor as recited in claim 23, wherein the highlight rendering services interface further comprises a move-segment-to-pointers method to redefine a highlight segment and a style in which the highlight segment is rendered.

26.   The electronic document editor as recited in claim 23, wherein the highlight rendering services interface further comprises a remove-segment method to remove a highlight segment from a collection of segments that are highlighted.

27.   The electronic document editor as recited in claim 22, wherein the highlight rendering services component further comprises a highlight segment interface configured to transfer data between the editor and a designer to enable the designer to provide type checking for document segments added or moved from highlighted sections of the document.